Latest Art, Culture, Food, Tourism News, Views & Announcements

CULTURAL ONLINE MAGAZINE

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INK OCHi

61

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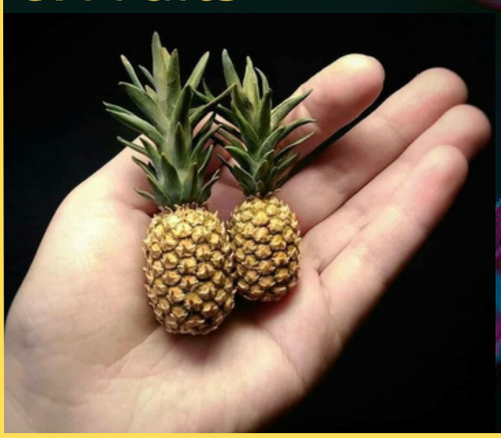
FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

NEPAL
PHEWA LAKE

- AMAZING TO KNOW
- ENGLISH WINE
- ART OF THE WEEK

Miniature Vegetable & Fruits



CULTURAL eMAGAZINE
INK OCHi
FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

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Editor's Note

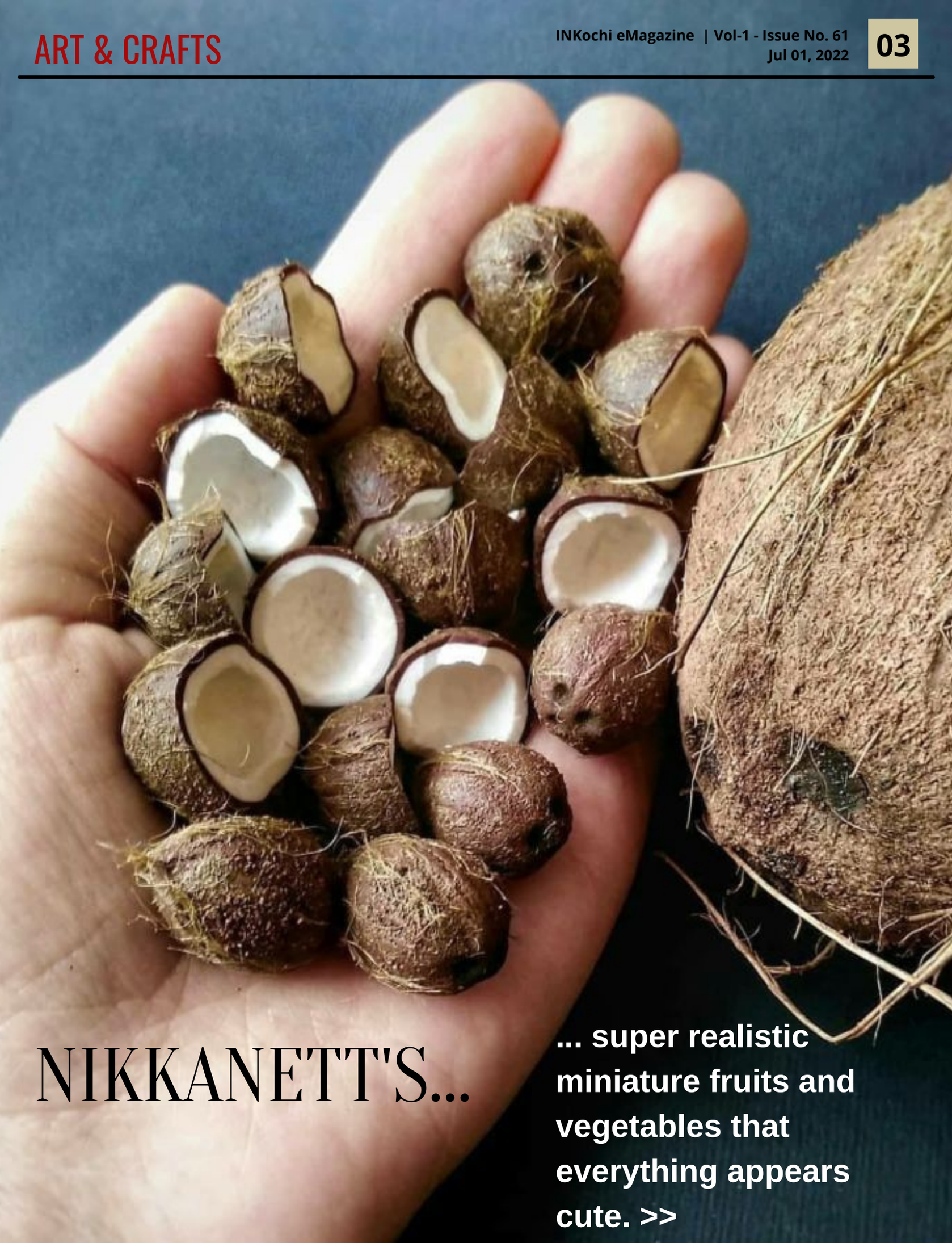
IMPORTANCE OF FRESH WATER LAKES

Freshwater on the land surface is a vital part of the water cycle for everyday human life. On the landscape, freshwater is stored in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and creeks and streams. Most of the water people use everyday comes from these sources of water on the land surface.

One part of the water cycle that is obviously essential to all life on Earth is the freshwater existing on the land surface. Just ask your neighbor, a tomato plant, a trout, or that pesky mosquito. Surface water includes the lakes, reservoirs (human-made lakes), ponds, streams (of all sizes, from large rivers to small creeks), canals (human-made lakes and streams), and freshwater wetlands. The definition of freshwater is water containing less than 1,000 milligrams per liter of dissolved solids, most often salt.

As a part of the water cycle, Earth's surface-water bodies are generally thought of as renewable resources, although they are very dependent on other parts of the water cycle. The amount of water in rivers and lakes is always changing due to inflows and outflows. Here in Nepal, Phewa lake serves the purpose.

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas



NIKKANETT'S...

... super realistic miniature fruits and vegetables that everything appears cute. >>

NIKKANETT'S...

He is a talented sculptor creating amazing miniature sculptures of fruits that they look real. The display of miniature fruits is in a variety and they are in clay. They look appealing and his work with real fruits looks so natural that you cannot tell the difference. It is certainly advanced clay modeling. >>

NIKKANETT'S...

With the autumn beginning, the summer heat is high and is the time there are more fruits available. However, the miniature clay fruits of Nikkanett are so real that one is tempted to eat the fruits. They look lovely and realistic fruits in clay.
>>

NIKKANETT'S...

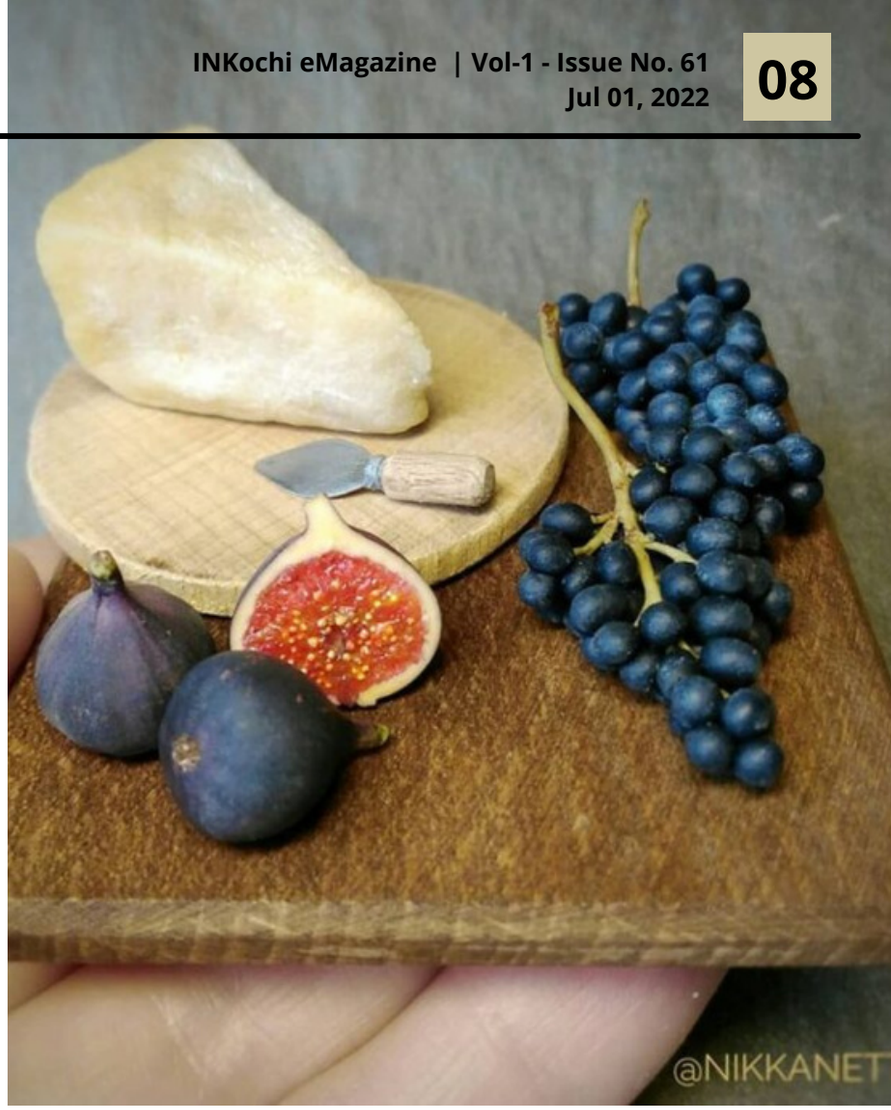
Nikkanett’s clay art works includes oranges, bananas, grapes, watermelons or peaches, are small things, and they are amazing. Apart from the series of miniature fruits, there are many vegetables such as pumpkin, Baotou, pepper, etc in the smaller. >>

NIKKANETT'S...

These are clay sculptures and not food for the elves. Are you fond of such miniature clay works?

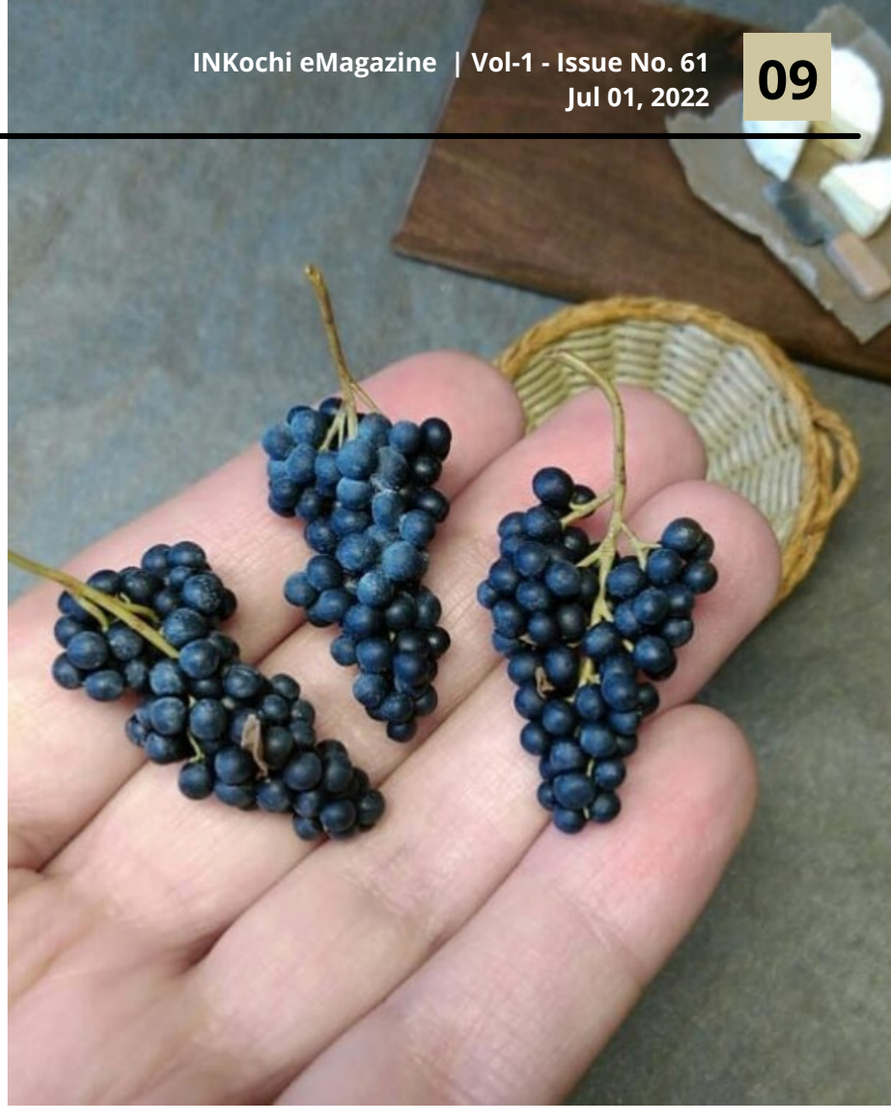
See some more... >>

NIKKANETT'S...



See some more... >>

NIKKANETT'S...



See some more... >>

NIKKANETT'S...

See some more... <>

GAJNER PALACE

Bikaner's Gajner Palace, bestowed with architectural finery and stunning geography, was His Highness Maharaja Ganga Singh's passion project, which he created around the boundaries of his colourful city of Bikaner. During Edwardian times, the castle was used as a hunting lodge where the Maharaja of Bikaner would entertain his visitors.

It has hosted the Prince of Wales, Lord Mountbatten, Lord Elwin, and several other dignitaries throughout its history. Though the palace has been renovated today, many of its original features have been preserved to provide guests and visitors a genuine palace experience. >>

GAJNER PALACE

This classic Rajput structure is fashioned from dark red sandstone, and stands beside a gorgeous lake. As soon as you pass through the gates of the palace, you are engulfed in an atmosphere reminiscent of a bygone era. The palace, one of the most well-known destinations in Bikaner, perfectly exemplifies the chivalrous culture and shades of history that colour the state of Rajasthan.

At present, Gajner Palace has been turned into a heritage hotel in Bikaner, where one may stay to enjoy royal hospitality or simply visit to discover the fantastic surroundings with nature trails, boat rides, desert excursions, and sanctuary feasts. <>

SOURCE: ILF EXPERT - SALONI CHOUDHARY

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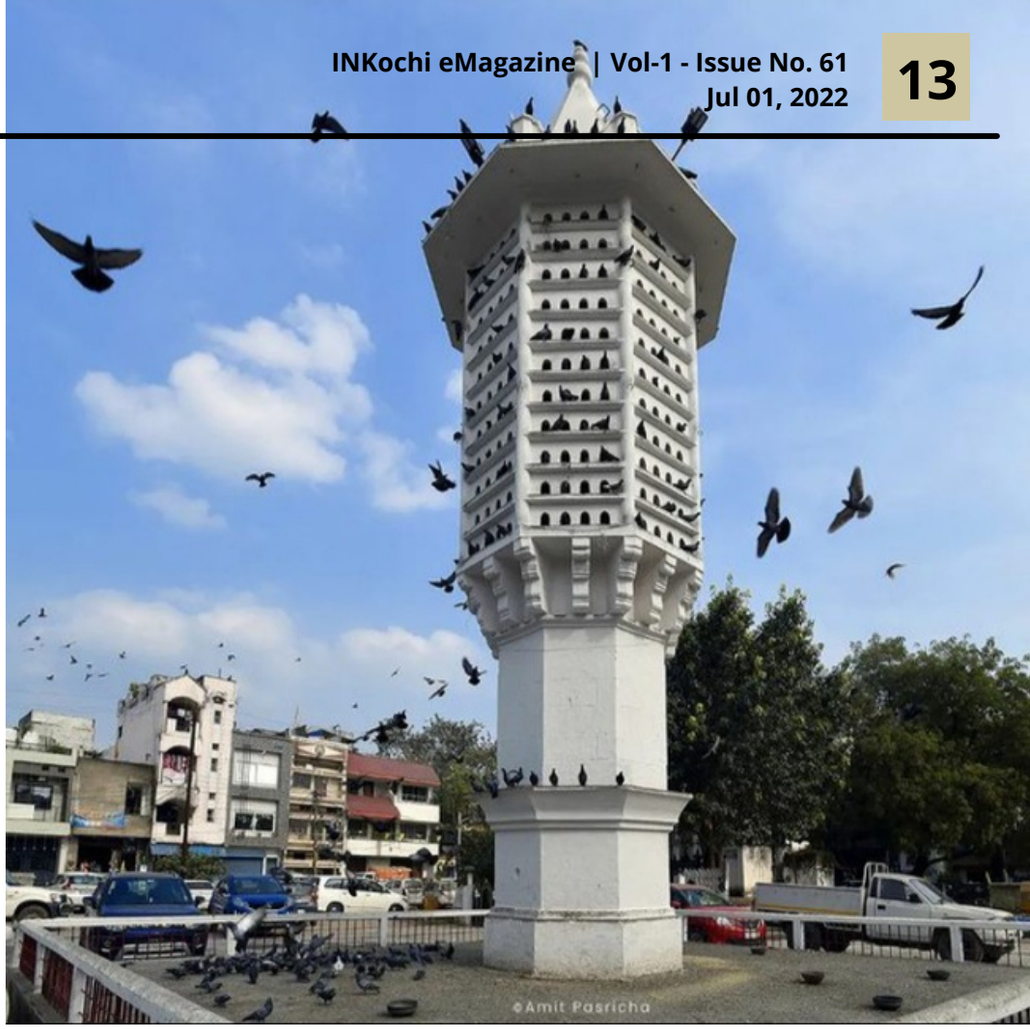
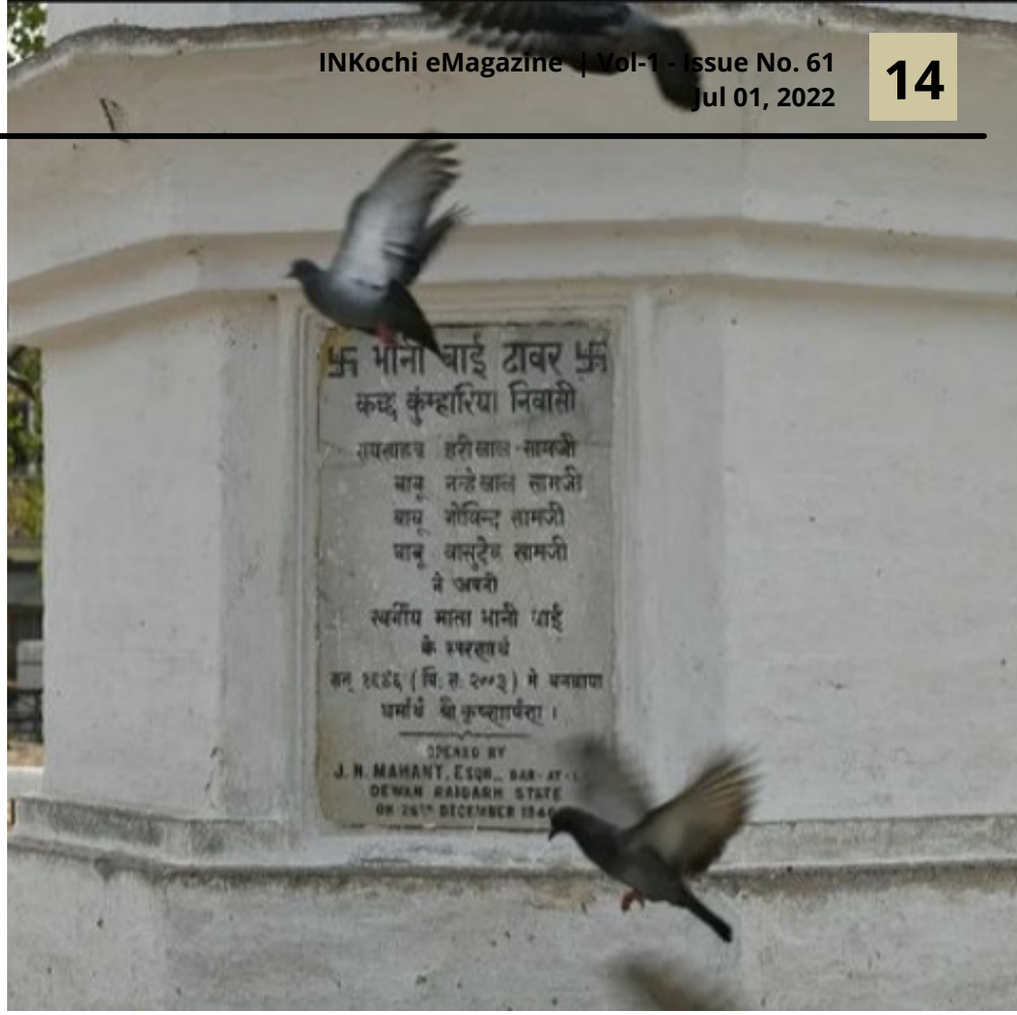
KABUTARKHANAS



Kabutarkhanas (pigeon houses) are one of the architectural traditions ushered in by Shyamji Gangji Sawariya, who hailed from a Gujarati family from Kutch that settled in Raigarh sometime in the 1890s. Brought in as railway contractor for the Hawda-Bombay line, Shyamji ended up making several large structures in the town such as Moti Mahal, Badal Mahal, and Circuit House, developing a style that reflected a special aesthetic quality through the brackets, arches, railings and other architectural features.

Named Bhandi Bai Tower, the Kabutarkhana of Raigarh was built in 1946 by Shyamji in memory of his deceased wife who was very found of pigeons. The octagonal, ten rowed pigeon hole structure in stone and lime is supported on stone brackets emerging out of a central pillar 5'6" high, that stands on an elevated platform. It is a fine example of birdfeeds outside of Rajasthan and Gujarat where the tradition of dedicating such structures for the use of the community is a common occurrence. >>

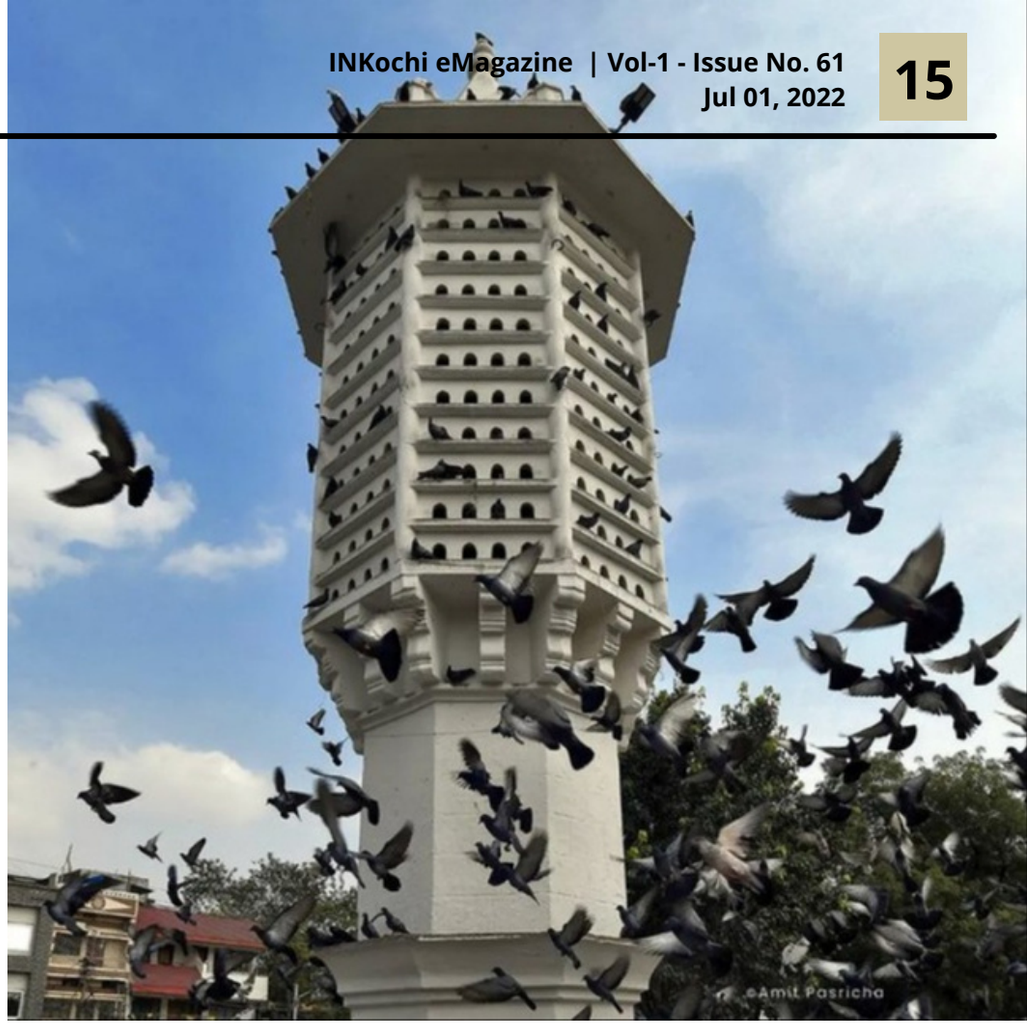
KABUTARKHANAS



Usually placed in the central squares of historic towns, mohallas, as also in the openings and junctions of the streets, these decorative structures belonged to the community and all people for both use and maintenance. These landmarks on elevated platforms, were embellished structures supported usually on a single pillar and were largely made of timber and sometimes of stone and bricks.

A plaque placed on one side of the octagonal shaft that supports the pigeon house mentions the name of the structure, its purpose and who it was built by. It says that Bhani Bai was a resident of Kumbharia, Kutch, and the tower was dedicated for religious merit by her sons Rai Sahab Hari Lal Samji, Babu Nanhe Lal Samji, Babu Govind Samji, and Babu Vasudev Samji in 1946 or in 2003 of the Vikram Samwat calendar, and is offered to Shri Krishna. >>

KABUTARKHANAS



The structure was opened by J.H. Mahant, Esqr., Bar-at-Law Dewan Raigarh State on 26th December 1945. The title of Rai Sahab was given to the family by the British.

The making of birdfeeds was considered a meritorious act, like the construction of wells and temples. Intricately carved in wood, these landmark structures, called Chabutros were part of the architectural heritage of Gujarat and Rajasthan. There are more than 140 such birdfeeds in Ahmedabad, each being an exquisite piece of architecture.

Intricately carved, the structure knitted the community together, as the act of feeding the birds and maintaining the structure is a shared responsibility.

Located at the centre of city, mohalla and street squares, they were the pride of the community and landmark for the visitors and residents alike. <>

SOURCE: ILF EXPERT - MEERA DASS

NEPAL

PHEWA LAKE

Phewa Lake is the largest lake in Nepal after the Rara lake compared to Nepal's water bodies. This lake is top-rated among locals and tourists. The city is economically dependent on the lake, as it is used for fishing, generating electricity, and tourism. Phewa lake covers an area of about 4 km2 and has an average depth of about 8 m.

Phewa Lake, also called Phewa Tal (in the Nepali language it is written in this way: फेवा ताल), is a freshwater lake in Nepal situated in the southern side of the Pokhara Valley, including Pokhara city, as well as some parts of Sarangkot and Kaskikot. The lake is river-fed, but a barrier balances the water flow; therefore, the lake is categorized as a semi-natural one. >>

PHEWA LAKE

The astonishing Himalayas is about 28 km far from the lake. The lake is also admired for the reflection of these epic mountains and peaks of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri on its mirroring surface. At the heart of the lake lies a small island that The Tal Barahi Temple is built on.

Mythology and History

Legends say that a goddess dressed herself up as a beggar and started wandering around the Himalayan Valley, but the people of the valley derided her.

This point resulted in the flood that happened as revenge. The flood destroyed valleys and villages and drowned those who misbehaved her. This divine punishment formed Lake Phewa, one of Nepal's largest lakes.

An examination of lake dregs declares its formation date to be during circa 13000 BC, while the nearby Pokhara city was formed later in the medieval era. >>

PHEWA LAKE

As the region was on the old trading route between China and India, locals used to see foreigners wandering around since early times. But with the growth of tourism, modern amenities increased in the area, causing Pokhara to lose its small-town allure.

You can enjoy activities like paragliding, water sports, and usual yoga, Reiki, and massages on the lakeside road, but it is not the genuine aspect of the region.

If you attempt to think out of the box of tourist areas, you will discover mind-blowing scenery and welcoming people to have memorable experiences. Remember to be respectful toward viewpoints and lifestyles different from yours and try embracing them.

Getting There - Planning the Trip

The region has a subtropical and sultry climate; however, the snowy heights of the Himalayas also affect the weather. >>

PHEWA LAKE

Although summers are not too hot and winters too cold, it is mostly recommended to schedule your trip for spring or fall, especially October, for enjoying mild weather. Anyway, you might like taking your personal preferences and avoiding tourist peaks into consideration.

Getting to Pokhara

While you can get to Pokhara by bus both from Kathmandu, the border town of Sunauli, and Butwal, you can only take a flight there from Kathmandu.

The road offers amusing views of peaks and rural Nepalese lifestyle worth overcoming a few difficulties in the ride. But it is safer to travel by plane during the rainy season due to slippery roads. Getting to the region by plane offers the advantage of a bird's eye view of the whole area, especially the panoramic mountains of Himalaya.

Getting to the Phewa Lake

There are various ways to get to Phewa Lake from Pokhara. >>

PHEWA LAKE

If you want to refresh your lungs with fresh air, you might like the idea of walking there or riding a rental bicycle, motorcycle, or scooter. You can also utilize buses and taxis to get to the lake. Buses are economical and therefore usually crowded, while taxis offer more private and comfortable space.

Getting Around

You might start your exploration in Baidam, located on the eastern banks of Phewa lake, mostly known as lakeside.

There are apparently numerous strips of hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, and souvenir shops on this road.

You can wander around this road visiting restaurants, cafes, and bars or taking a rest booking a room in a hotel or a hostel if you are not planning to camp. Live music and music festivals are popular around. Merchants offer handmade items like Jewels and trinkets as souvenirs of the area. >>

PHEWA LAKE

You can also find centers around provid-ing paraglides and boats. There are also some modern spas for yoga, massage, meditation, and Reiki, providing over a dozen various retreats. Some also arrange 1-20 day treks, including hiking as well as courses in yoga and meditation.

Lakeside can lead you to start exploring the shores of Phewa lake on foot or by riding a bicycle. In contrast to the garish tourism growth of lakeside, the precipi-tous southwestern lakeside is covered with a velvety forest and alive with the birds singing.

The vigorous Rani Ban, or Queen's Forest, puts an emerald shade on the lake combined with the reflection of snow-white peaks of Anna-purna mountains on its mirror surface on clear days.

You can boat on the lake with one of the Doongas (boats) painted in vivid colors that are available for rent at the lake-side. The lake seems encha-nting in the sunrises and sunsets when you are swing-ing in the boat. >>

PHEWA LAKE

The glassy water of the lake makes it possible to observe the life of fabulous fish. You can boat toward the southeast side of the lake, where Tal Barahi Temple is located on a small island.

Tal Barahi Temple, also known as the Lake Temple, is located at the center of Phewa Lake. This temple is one of the most important religious monuments of Nepal for Hindus. This two-storied pagoda was dedicated to Vishnu, a Hindu god.

As a devotee of Goddess Durga and the first Shah king of Kaski, King Kulmandhan Shah built the temple on the island at the heart of Lake Phewa. Prayers usually visit this temple on Saturdays.

Places to Visit Nearby Viewpoints

The glory of this astonishing area is more perceptible in the heights. There are some viewpoints from which you can find pleasure in its sublime perspectives. >>

PHEWA LAKE

You can access these viewpoints by hiking, cycling, or driving there. World Peace Pagoda (Shanti Stupa) and Sarangkot are popular viewpoints to look at the scenery above.

These attractions include restaurants, hotels, and cafes. Nearby hills also represent breathtaking perspectives. Kahun Dharahara and Dhiki Danda are among these kinds of hills in the area. While you can also access Kahun Dharahara by bus, car, and motorbike, Dhiki Danda is only accessible via hiking.

Lakes and Waterfalls

Begnas Lake (Begnas Tal) is tranquil, refreshing, and peaceful. There are hostels nearby, and a very nice Vipassana Meditation Retreat provides some services for your relaxation. The road leading to Begnas Tal is a fascinating road to walk along and regard the country's seasonal rhythms of life routine. >>

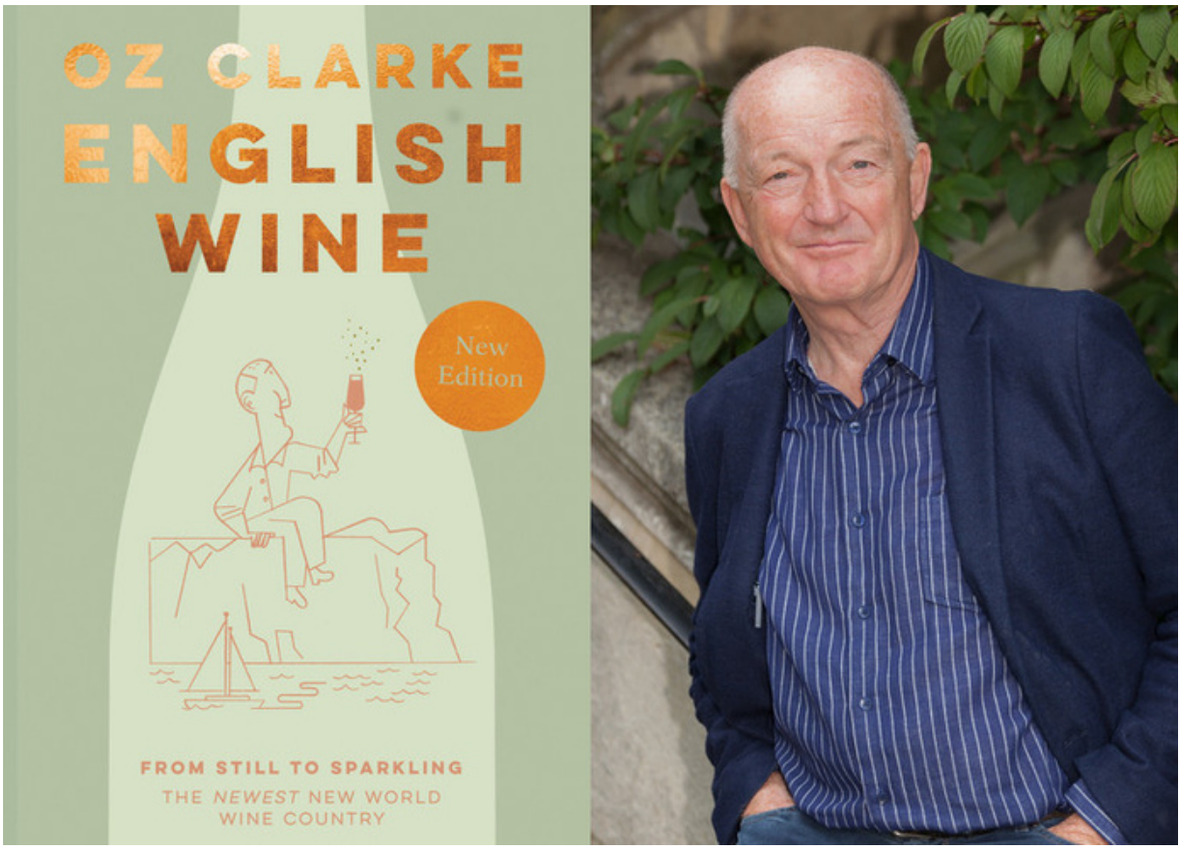
PHEWA LAKE

Rupa Lake (Rupa Tal), being more remote to Pokhara, has limited ease of access; it is more calm and untouched in comparison to the other lakes around. A must-visit if you are enthusiastic about wilderness. Dipang Lake (Dipang Tal) is also an eye-catching lake where wild lotuses and wild swans lie on the water surface. Devi's Falls (Patale Chhango) is striking, mainly after heavy rains. Devi's Falls dive into a cave disappearing into the earth.

Caves

There are some explorable caves around the area where you can schedule to visit. Mahendra Cave (Mahendra Gufa) and Chamare Cave (Chamare Gufa) which are near each other, are well known among people, as the first one is made of unique limestone and the second one is a special opportunity to observe cave bats. There is a statue of the goddess Shiva in Mahendra Cave, while a large stalagmite in the Gupteshwor Mahadev Cave is worshiped as a Shiva representation. This cave is close to Devi's fall we talked about earlier. You can plan to visit them both in a day. <>

ABOUT THE BOOK



One of the great pleasures of wine is to drink it where it is grown and made. The opportunity to meet growers, winemakers and winery owners is what draws people to visit wineries and to ‘have an experience in the vineyard’. This is your essential guide to find out about England and its world beating sparklers and still wines that have captivated the wine world.

The modern view of English wine is of a country amazingly blessed with vast tracts of soil suitable for viticulture, much of it almost indistinguishable from the chalky slopes of Champagne and Chablis, and of a country taking full advantage of the vagaries of climate change to ripen Chardonnay and Pinot Noir to levels perfect for sparkling wine, and increasingly excellent still wines. With Oz as your guide, you will find the best English and Welsh wines, from fizz, whites, some impressive reds and even dessert and orange wines. <>

SOURCE: TOPPING BOOKS, UK.

PENCIL SKETCH
BY

THE NEXT GENERATION OF CORBETT

SHOT BY
AARZOO KHURANA